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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,501	10/01/2003	Yasuhiro Suzuki	2018-783	4230

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EXAMINER

COTTINGHAM, JOHN R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2116

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,501

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI, YASUHIRO

Examiner

John R. Cottingham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2 9-14 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-8, 15 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 3-8 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nickerson et al. U.S. Patent 6,582,172. Nickerson et al. shows all of the claimed subject matter of a screw fastening structure in the translation and Figures 1-3.

Regarding claim 3, a screw fastening structure comprising: a screw 34 having a male-threaded portion and a screw head, which is positioned at an end of the screw in opposition to an engaging side of the screw; and a housing 44 including a resinous portion to be threadably engaged with the male-threaded portion, wherein: the resinous portion 44 has a round through hole for guiding the male-threaded portion to be engaged therewith, said through hole extending completely through said resinous

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portion; the resinous portion 44 has a an inlet (counter sunk bore of 20) of and concentrically clearance inlet hole around with the through hole; and an inner diameter of the clearance inlet hole is larger than an outer diameter of the male-threaded portion.

Regarding claim 4, wherein the clearance inlet hole has a tapering shape, where the inner diameter of the clearance inlet hole becomes smaller in a screwing direction of the screw.

Regarding claim 5, a screw fastening structure comprising: a screw 34 having a male-threaded portion and a screw head, which is positioned at an end of the screw 34 in opposition to an engaging side of the screw; and a housing 44 including a resinous portion having a though hole to be threadably engaged with the male-threaded portion, wherein the length of the male-threaded portion is shorter than the length of the through hole so that the male-threaded portion should not be projected from the outlet of the through hole when engaged therewith.

Regarding claim 6, a screw fastening structure comprising: a screw 16 having a male-threaded portion; and a housing 11 including a resinous portion 16 to be threadably engaged with the male-threaded portion, wherein the resinous portion 13 has a round through hole for guiding the male-threaded portion to be engaged therewith said through hole extending completely through the resinous portion 44, and the resinous portion 13 has a clearance portion around an outlet 15 of and concentrically with the through hole.

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Regarding claim 7, wherein the clearance portion is a clearance outlet hole (tapered portion), the inner diameter of which is larger than the outer diameter of the male-threaded portion.

Regarding claim 8, wherein the clearance portion is formed by a chamfered outlet portion.

Regarding claim 15, the screw has a non-threaded portion (the tip of the screw), which is positioned at an end of the screw in opposition to the side of the screw head, the non-threaded portion has non male threads (any surface without threads meets this limitation such as the tip in this case), and the non-threaded portion projects from the outlet of the through hole (bottom hole in 11).

Regarding claim 16, the male-threaded portion has a length that is longer than a length of the through hole in an axial, screw advancing direction. (the threaded portion of the screw 16 is shown to have a portion longer than the threaded portion of the hole).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2 and 9-14 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 11/18/04 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Giannuzzi et al. U.S. Patent 5,885,041 shows a screw with an adhesive but does not show it in resinous housing.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John R. Cottingham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571) 272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John R. Cottingham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2116

jrc